



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



September 2022
Vol. 56, Issue 9

1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Can Diamonds be Forever?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Are diamonds the only stone for an engagement ring? The jewelry dealers would like for everyone to say yes, but it is not necessarily so. Starting about 2018, the gemstone Morganite started to become popular as an alternative to Diamond in engagement rings. Morganite is of the Beryl family that includes Emeralds and Aquamarines. They all have the same crystalline structure, streak, density, and Mohs hardness. It is tiny amounts of trace elements that get caught up in the crystal matrix that cause differing colors. Before Morganite started their turn at popularity, Emeralds, Aquamarines, Rubies, Topaz, Sapphires, and other gemstones also had a run at popularity. Many different gemstones are suitable for engagement rings unless, of course, you are of the De Beers family. In the 19th century, the De Beers corporation came to own many diamond mines in South Africa and rapidly grew to be the largest producer of diamonds. In fact, they had a glut of diamonds on hand and were looking for a way to sell even more. They hired the N.W. Ayer advertising agency to promote the sale of diamonds, particularly diamond engagement rings. They were hired to convince Americans in general, and couples in particular, that Diamonds were synonymous with love. They created the phrase “A Diamond is Forever” to promote the belief that the pure, durable diamond was like the love between two people and they simply had to show it (the love, the diamond, or both). They also tried to convince couples that the size and quality of the diamond reflected how much love the marriage had. Not surprisingly, the advertising campaign worked. It worked even better than they had hoped. De Beers profited handsomely as the sale of engagement rings, and diamond engagement rings became far and away the most popular. De Beers went on to control the Diamond market and still does so today. It is said that if De Beers were to dump the Diamonds they are holding back, they could drive any other producer into bankruptcy, but instead, they simply bought up most of the competitors. That is slowly changing today, but



De Beers is still the major factor in setting the price for diamonds. The fact that other competitors can make a handsome profit by selling their stones at De Beers' prices keeps De Beers in control.

Engagement rings get their historic start in Egypt in 850 when Pope Nicholas I declared that an engagement ring signified a man's intent to marry. At that time most engagement rings were simple bands of gold. Many had a small key attached signifying the woman's status as "owned". Anthropologists believe that the first ring with set gemstones to be involved in an engagement was the proposal between Archduke Maximilian of Austria and Mary of Burgandy. Following tradition before it was a tradition, the ring was a band of Diamonds, the Diamonds forming an "M", the initial of her first name. Aristocracy soon followed the couple by giving Diamond and other gemstone engagement rings and a tradition was established. The ring became a part of the tradition but was not necessarily a Diamond. Emeralds, Rubies, and other fabulous gemstones were used until De Beers manage to change things.



Back to more recent times. Why would an engagement ring with a Morganite gemstone be considered an option for a Diamond? To start with, Morganite is the pink variety of Beryl, and pink is a feminine color and a color of love. If the size and quality of the stones reflect the amount of love, you can get a whole lot more stones of Morganite than for the price of Diamond stones; three to 10 times the size of the stones. And, as mentioned, it is Pink. It would be extremely expensive to buy a three-carat Diamond, but a three-carat Morganite can easily be had for the price of even a single-carat Diamond. And did I mention that Morganites are pink? In my volunteer duties at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, I have shown a large Morganite specimen to many people, and it is surprising the number who immediately show me their Morganite engagement ring. Diamonds are still the most popular, but other stones are gaining traction.

Reference:

- The History of Engagement Rings, <https://www.life123.com/celebrations>
- The Surprising History of Engagement Rings, <https://www.brides.com/>

Pictures:

- Cut Morganite, picture by Koreller, licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) license, from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>
- Picture of Morganite specimen by Don Shurtz of a large Morganite on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

September

- 9-11 September, Murphy, TX, David Dobson rock sale, 1409 Oak Hill Ln, Murphy, TX, rock@rocktrading.org
- 24-25 September, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- 24-25 September, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of the Americas, website: www.SWGMS.org

October

- 1-2 October, Cabot, AR, Central Arkansas GM&GS, Cabot Event Center, centralarrockhound.org
- **8-9 October, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, email: selovelace@showdirection.com**
- **14-16 October, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, The John A Alario Event Center. SCFMS & AFMS Show and Convention, Contact J. David Cope, (504) 214-6754.**
- **October 14 – 16, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall event center, website: <https://www.intergem.com>**
- 21-23 October, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, www.agms-tx.org
- 29-30 October, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma G&MS, State Fair Park- Modern Living Bldg., omgs-minerals.org

November

- 5-6 November, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread GM&TS, Amarillo Civic Center Complex, website: www.amarillotreasure.com
- 11-13 November, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, website: hgms.org
- **19–20 November, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, website: dallasgemandmineral.org**

Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: January – February 2022 SCFMS Newsletter

A Blast from The Past - The Mountain

Jessica Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC Junior Member
From the December 2000 Chips and Chatter

Mossy trees around him, cloudless sky above,
A boy, caught in time, was wandering around,
And catching his eye beside a crystal clear lake,
The boy saw a rock, which he picked up, off the ground,
He held it in his hand, feeling its non-living pulse,
And looked inside its dreaming soul to see what he had found.

I, declared the small shining rock,
Am all that is left of the greatest mountain,
An alp that was once the highest peak,
A shimmering image, like seen through a fountain,
A rainbow of greens, grays, and browns,
A rise that almost conquered time and pain.

Alas, struck down by my creator's hand,
A stirring that pulsed from deep within the earth,
Down I crumbled, to become only a swell,
Destroyed by the same force as my birth,
With no one or thing to my remember size,
Save time, which would not cherish my girth.

All but carried away, by the powers of earth,
Wind, water, fire, earth, and most of all time,
Until only I was left, biding out my years,
Where are the trees that once dwelt upon my side?
And the animals who tickled my slopes,
But finally I have learned to be wise.

And now here you are holding me in your hand,
The last fragment still surviving time's tireless gaze,
Now I am yours to keep or discard,
And the boy emerged from the rock's eerie maze,
He felt a last strong pulse from within the rock's keep,
And he kept it in his holding for the rest of his days.

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:15 PM Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland,
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX



President's Message

Margaret Kolaczyk, AFMS 2022 President

Hi Everyone,

It will not be long before the 2022 AFMS/SCFMS Convention and Show is upon us. Please check the AFMS website for the convention and show package. Also, a call for reports is out to send your reports to Donna Moore by Sept. 1 for the business meeting package. Otherwise, you will need to bring your own copies to the meeting.

We haven't had newsletters for a couple of months, so just to let you know, in May I traveled to Kennewick Washington to do a Judges Training Seminar. A total of 12 students attended and by all accounts, it was well received. I wish to thank Larry Hulstrom for his hard work in making the class possible.

The following are the students that attended and are now certified AFMS Judges: Larry Hulstrom, Joshua Hulstrom, Ronna Watkins, Linda Harvey, William Harvey Jr., Charisse Ash, Mary Goff, Gordon Hale, Sue Steward, Walt Butler, Gayle Butler, and Darrel Coyle.

Since this was the first time I had actually done the class, I was able to learn a lot on how to improve the class for the future. If you have not taught a class, you will find that as an instructor, you will learn more about what you are teaching by the questions the students ask. Being able to share knowledge on a subject you love gives one a special feeling.

I wish everyone a safe and fun Labor Day.



VOLUNTEERISM

Ellery Borow, President EFMLS Federation 2022

From EFMLS Newsletter, June 2022

The community of volunteerism is exceedingly strong in our clubs and federation. Just think of all the effort to put on a club show, write a monthly newsletter, arrange club digs, or research interesting programs. Everything we do in our hobby is accomplished by dedicated, devoted, and determined volunteers. To all the volunteers in all the [AFMS] clubs - thank you all for your years of service.

In looking through past EFMLS Directories of member clubs I noted that many clubs have one or two persons serving in multiple positions. Does that mean the club could use a few more volunteers from its membership? It does sometimes happen that members attend meetings for the program and are not otherwise interested in serving the club.

Here are a few ideas to encourage members to move up to being volunteers:

- Serving a club is fun. Helping a club be a better club is fun. Keep this fun front and center. –
- Being a part of the team that makes the club work so well is an uplifting and rewarding experience. • Make sure the effort of volunteers is recognized, appreciated, and valued.
- Let prospective volunteers know there are experienced club members willing to offer their knowledge and support with the position - that they do not have to go it alone.
- Offer mentoring options so prospective volunteers can get their feet wet before becoming the chair of this or that committee.
- Publicly thank volunteers for what they do. Keep the smiles genuine.
- Consider offering incentives such as earning points for this or that effort where the highest point earners are offered a prize (such as a pass to a museum, a fine specimen, or tuition to attend the EFMLS Wildacres program).
- Encourage prospective volunteers to utilize their skills - maybe the best organizer can run the show, the best baker can provide a portion of the meeting refreshments, the best technician can direct the club's lapidary shop, and the best researcher put on a club program or two.
- Keep the position requirements clear so volunteers know what they are volunteering to accomplish. • Be mindful that some positions require more effort than others, and those positions might be best managed by breaking them into smaller modules.
- Volunteers are well known for sharing not only their time and energy but their enjoyment of the hobby, as well.
- Remember that a club is a cooperative, cohesive, caring entity where everyone benefits from their membership. Volunteers make it ALL happen.
- Also remember that it is fun to be sharing one's enjoyment in the hobby with other, like-minded people.

Please make every effort to let volunteers know they are valued, and that nothing happens without volunteers and their positive, can-do approach to serving.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2022

President: Don Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Judy Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes of the August 4, 2022 Meeting

POGMC President Don Shurtz called the August 2022 club meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report: No new sunshine reports

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Minutes: There were no minutes for July as that was our Annual Spring Creek BBQ Dinner. We did approve the minutes of the 2nd meeting.

Treasurer's Report: We deferred the July Treasurer's Report until the September meeting

Old Business: The July Spring Creek BBQ dinner was excellent. We had two geodes as door prizes for the meeting. Carol and Don were the winners

Old Business: We checked on who would be interested in selling at the IGEM show in October. Warner and Julie will be selling at the State Fair and Carolyn Grady indicated she would not be participating. The show conflicts with the AFMS and SCFMS Convention so Don and Ling will not be able to participate.

Break

Presentation: Although we had a Video from the Great Courses Series available, everyone was more interested in a project to color and

assemble folded paper crystals. The crystals were a big hit!

Raffle: We held the raffle.

Don adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM with a request to expedite the room clean-up.

SEPTEMBER 1st Meeting

We will show a video from the Great Courses series at our September meeting.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Copyright Information: This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted for noncommercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as references provided a citation is given.



Editor's Corner: Volunteering

Don Shurtz, Editor

I hope you took a good look at the article titled "Volunteerism" by Ellery Borow on the preceding page. If not, give it another look. At the September meeting, we will put together a Nominating Committee for the next year. Elections will be in October and our new Officers will be installed at our November meeting.

We have moved some of the officer positions around, but the only new Officer we have had in many, many years is our current Secretary, Amy Vulk (thank you, Amy). It is time to get some more new blood into the mixture. As Ellery points out, it is not like you have to start from scratch. There are current and past officers who can help out. None of these jobs are particularly demanding. Most take a couple of hours each month, and two of those hours are being at the meeting. So, let's start the next meeting with the Nominating Committee – who, out there, is willing to help?

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings
First Thursday of each month. Next meeting is July 7 at the Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson

Membership
Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)

PURPOSE

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, particularly those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
PO Box 831934
Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 1, 2022, starting at 7:15
Our Presentation will be a Video from the Great Courses series

Features

Can a Diamond be Forever?	1
A Blast from the Past: The Mountain	3
Editor's Corner – Volunteering	5

Notices

Shows and Activities	2
Visit an Area Club	3
Copyright Notice	5

Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information	1, 3, 5, 6
Minutes of the August Meeting	5

Federation News

President's Message [AFMS]	4
Volunteerism	4